



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Students and Teachers:

We want your help in naming a new ship for the Federal Government! On behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its partners, I am pleased to invite you to participate in the "Name NOAA's New Fisheries Ship" competition. The winning team will name a 208-ft. fisheries survey vessel that will conduct marine fisheries and ecosystem research in the Pacific Ocean off the west coast of the United States.

NOAA is a federal science agency that conducts research and gathers data about the global oceans and atmosphere. One of the agency's important missions is to protect and preserve our Nation's living marine resources through scientific research, fisheries management, enforcement, and habitat conservation. You can learn more about NOAA through our Web site at www.noaa.gov.

NOAA has a fleet of ships and aircraft that collects environmental data in support of its missions. Currently under construction is a state-of-the-art fisheries survey vessel, known as FSV #4, which will replace one of our older ships. Because your community will benefit from its research, we would like you to learn what the ship will be doing and why, and to help us name it.

By forming a team and entering the competition, you will have fun while learning about your local living marine resources, coastal ecosystems, oceanography, and history. At the same time you will be helping NOAA achieve its educational goals: to bring to America's students a greater appreciation and understanding of the environment that sustains us all, and to create a new generation of stewards who will watch over and protect our precious natural resources for generations to come.

You can learn a lot about NOAA's activities by using the Internet to help spark your creativity. For general information about NOAA, visit www.noaa.gov. Please visit our Web site at www.education.noaa.gov to get the most up-to-date contest information and to learn more about NOAA educational products. The winning team will be invited for a day tour of one of NOAA's research and education facilities in Gulf of Mexico area; the team's school will receive a small-scale replica of the nameplate that is permanently affixed to the ship near the keel. The ship's name, developed from the contest, will be shown on this replica.

Be a part of history and form your team to Name NOAA's New Ship today!

Sincerely,

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere

THE ADMINISTRATOR



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